

REMARKS

The Examiner had rejected claims 12 to 20 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McTeer and Robinson et al. The applicants respectfully acknowledge the indications by the examiner that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended independent claim 12 to include the limitations of claim 21 (noted by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter) as well as the limitations of intervening claim 20. Accordingly applicants submit that independent claim 12 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons indicated by the examiner on pages 7 and 8 of the Final Office Action relating to the allowable subject matter in claim 21.

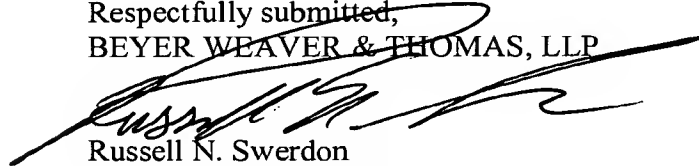
In view of the foregoing discussion, the rejections of claim 12 over both McTeer and Robinson are believed overcome. The rejections of claims 13-18 are believed overcome at least due to their dependencies from claim 12.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his courtesy and cooperation in a telephone call on November 20 wherein the folding of the limitations of claim 21 into claim 12 were briefly discussed as well as claim 23 and its dependant claims. The participants agreed that including the limitations of claims 20 and 21 would make claim 12 allowable. No agreement was reached regarding claim 23. Claims 19-27 have been cancelled without prejudice to reasserting those claims in a continuation application or other form.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is submitted that all issues in the Office Action have been addressed, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a prompt passage to issuance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell N. Swerdon", is written over the printed name.

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